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TO: Commissioner for Patents
Attn: Examiner Allen Heinz
Patent Examining Corps
Facsimile Center
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FROM: Brendan J. Hanley

OUR REF: 9780.00
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If you do NOT receive all of the pages, please telephone us at 952-402-7683, or fax us at 952-402-8187.

Documents Transmitted: Reply and Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
Applicant: Boutaghou et al
Serial No.: 09/897,779
Filed: June 29, 2001
Group Art Unit: 2653
Our Ref. No.: 9780.00

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By: Brendan J. Hanley
Name: Brendan J. Hanley
Reg. No.: 52,429

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JAN 20 2004
OFFICIALPATENT APPLICATION
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116
EXAMINING GROUP 260011/C
(Alt.)
MDJ
1-23-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re App: Boutaghou et al.

Date: January 20, 2004

S.N.: 09/897,779

Docket No.: STL 9780.00

Filed: June 29, 2001

Examiner: Allen Heinz

For: BI-LEVEL CAVITY FOR A SLIDER
AIR-BEARING SURFACE

Art Unit: 2653

REPLY AND AMENDMENTS UNDER 37 CFR 1.116Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits the following response 2 months from the Office Action dated November 17, 2003. For the reasons detailed below, the pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance.